designed for wheel chair borne passengers. These compartments have facilities like wider door-way, aisle and knee space to permit easy movement of wheel chair, toilet adapted to needs of such passengers, arrangements for securing wheel chairs during the journey etc. Some coaches having such compartments are already in service as unreserved accommodation. It has been decided to provide one such coach in every mail/express train during next two years.

(c) yes, Sir. From 2001-02 upto 2005-06 a total of 1159 coaches having such specially designed compartments have been manufactured.

(d) These coaches have been in service as unreserved coaches since their manufacture.

Solapur-Gadga rail line

1305. SHRI K.B. SHANAPPA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that railway line between Solapur to Gadga *via* Bijapur broad gauge line is incomplete;

(b) the details of the portion left out; and

(c) by when the work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot-Gadag.

(c) Basavana Bagewadi-Bagalkot is targeted for completion during 2006-07 and the remaining section in the coming years subject to deposition of balance share by the Government of Karnataka.

Regularisation of temporary employees

†1306. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take steps to regularize such temporary employees who have completed 5 or 8 years in a department;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Temporary employees are regularised against a suitable regular vacancy after passing due screening or suitability Test as per laid down rule. There is no criteria fixed for completion of 5 or 8 years in the Department.

New design for railway stations

1307. PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to find new designs for railway stations in the country;

(b) whether any effort has been made to involve institutions like the National Institute of Design to find way to create and build railway stations which would ensure that there is easy entrance and exist for all passengers;

(c) whether it is a fact that at railway stations it is difficult to reach trains in distant platforms for old people and handicapped sections;

(d) whether his Ministry would try to re-design all stations, so that trains would be able to park as near the exit points as possible; and

(e) the steps proposed to find a new design for all railway stations in the country in keeping with increasing traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (e) There are more than 8000 railway stations on Indian Railways. Development/re-designing of railway station(s) is a continuous process and is carried out depending upon traffic and other requirements. Such improvements in design are planned in house as also with the help of consultants depending upon requirements. The consultants are normally engaged through bidding process and an institution like National Institute of Design could participate in the same. Number of platforms at the stations are provided based on operational requirements like number of trains carrying passengers, suburban trains